

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To require a comprehensive southern border strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TILLIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require a comprehensive southern border strategy, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Comprehensive South-
5 ern Border Strategy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE SOUTHERN BORDER STRATEGY.**

7 (a) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.—

8 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 12 months
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of Homeland Security shall submit to the
11 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of

1 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland
2 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a
3 comprehensive southern border strategy.

4 (2) CONTENTS.—The strategy submitted under
5 paragraph (1) shall include—

6 (A) a comprehensive overview of the cur-
7 rent security risks present along the southern
8 border, including relating to deficiencies along
9 the physical border, aerial and maritime
10 vulnerabilities, and the presence of illegal tun-
11 neling;

12 (B) a substantive review of the Depart-
13 ment of Homeland Security’s technology, tools,
14 or other devices used to combat the trafficking
15 of drugs across the southern border, with an
16 emphasis on fentanyl and related substances;

17 (C) a thorough outline of the Department’s
18 technology, tools, or other devices used to com-
19 bat human trafficking across the southern bor-
20 der by international criminal organizations;

21 (D) a list of known physical barriers, tech-
22 nologies, tools, and other devices that can be
23 used to achieve and maintain situational aware-
24 ness and operational control along the southern
25 border;

1 (E) a projected per mile cost estimate for
2 each physical barrier, technology, tool, and
3 other device included on the list required under
4 subparagraph (B);

5 (F) a detailed account of which type of
6 physical barrier, technology, tool, or other de-
7 vice the Department of Homeland Security be-
8 lieves is necessary to achieve and maintain situ-
9 ational awareness and operational control for
10 each linear mile of the southern border;

11 (G) an explanation for why such physical
12 barrier, technology, tool, or other device was
13 chosen to achieve and maintain situational
14 awareness and operational control for each lin-
15 ear mile of the southern border, including—

16 (i) the methodology used to determine
17 which type of physical barrier, technology,
18 tool, or other device was chosen for such
19 linear mile;

20 (ii) an examination of existing man-
21 made and natural barriers for each linear
22 mile of the southern border; and

23 (iii) the information collected and
24 evaluated from—

1 (I) the appropriate U.S. Customs
2 and Border Protection Sector Chief;

3 (II) the Joint Task Force Com-
4 mander;

5 (III) the appropriate State Gov-
6 ernor;

7 (IV) local law enforcement offi-
8 cials;

9 (V) private property owners; and

10 (VI) other affected stakeholders;

11 (H) a per mile cost calculation for each
12 linear mile of the southern border given the
13 type of physical barrier, technology, tool, or
14 other device chosen to achieve and maintain
15 operational control for each linear mile; and

16 (I) a cost justification for each time a
17 more expensive physical barrier, technology,
18 tool, or other device is chosen over a less expen-
19 sive option, as established by the per mile cost
20 estimates required in subparagraph (B).

21 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term “oper-
23 ational control” has the meaning given such term in
24 section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (8
25 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 109–367).

1 (2) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term “sit-
2 uational awareness” has the meaning given the term
3 in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Au-
4 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law
5 114–328).